
Subject: Re: A simple DLM question

Posted by [Lajos Foldy](#) on Wed, 29 Aug 2012 17:31:38 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Wednesday, August 29, 2012 6:23:51 PM UTC+2, Xin Tao wrote:

> That's very clear explanation, thanks. But I would still say that it's not very intuitive to me that 3 is a constant but -3 is not.

A '-' can be both unary (-3) and binary (a-3). Including the '-' in the constant would be erroneous in the binary case and you would get a syntax error.

There is a similar feature (or bug?) in parsing the exponent of floating point literals. IDL accepts 1e- as a valid float number:

```
IDL> help, 1e-  
<Expression>  FLOAT  =    1.00000
```

But this results in a syntax error for expressions like 1e-a:

```
IDL> a=0 & help, 1e-a
```

```
a=0 & help, 1e-a  
          ^
```

```
% Syntax error.
```

(I think 1e- should be invalid and 1e-a should be valid.)

regards,
Lajos
